

Powers Wife Under Study At Hospital

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By Lon Tuck

Staff Reporter

Barbara Powers was reported in "satisfactory" condition at Georgetown University Hospital yesterday where she was admitted Friday, unconscious and suffering from an as yet undiagnosed illness.

A hospital spokesman said Mrs. Powers, wife of U-2 pilot Francis Gary Powers, regained consciousness late Friday and "is being studied to determine the cause of her illness."

Hospital officials and police connected with the case issued contradictory reports Friday and would not clarify the case yesterday.

District police originally said Mrs. Powers took "an overdose of approximately 28 Nembutal capsules"—a barbiturate. They said the information came from Georgetown.

Dr. George E. Schreiner, the Georgetown staff physician who treated Mrs. Powers, denied that police got the Nembutal report from the hospital. He "discounted" the report as exaggerated and improbable.

Lt. Nelson S. Rickey of the Seventh precinct, reached at home, said the Nembutal report was turned in by Pvt. J. E. St. John who was "unavailable" yesterday it was "his day off." Police on duty, said St. John did work. Rickey suggested the Nembutal version may have originated on the transport from Alexandria Hospital where Mrs. Powers was first taken when her husband called a rescue squad. (The couple lived in Hunting Towers apartments in Alexandria.)

She was transferred to Georgetown after preliminary treatment for "medication reaction."

Alexandria Hospital authorities would not release any material about the case. "One spokesman claimed the information had to be cleared by the Central Intelligence Agency, which still employs Powers.

However, a CIA spokesman said the affair was "a family matter, not a CIA one."

District homicide detectives said yesterday they went to examine records of the Powers case but were refused.